

Claims

1-53 Canceled

54. (Previously Presented) An extract of *Rhizoma Chuanxiong*, characterized in that the extract is capable of eliciting progestogenic activity in a progestogen receptor assay.

55. (Previously Presented) An extract as claimed in claim 54, wherein the extract is capable of eliciting an increase in progesterone reporter gene activity in the range 50-fold to 350-fold relative to a negative control.

56. (Previously Presented) An extract according to claim 55, wherein the increase in progesterone reporter gene activity is 150 fold to 200 fold relative to a negative control.

57. (Previously Presented) An extract according to claim 55, wherein the progesterone reporter gene comprises a luciferase reporter gene driven by two copies of progesterone response element from aminotransferase.

58. (Previously Presented) An extract according to claim 54, wherein the extract is at a concentration in the range of 6.25µg/ml to 100µg/ml in the progestogen receptor assay.

59. (Previously Presented) An extract according to claim 58, wherein the progestogen receptor assay comprises RPMI 1640 medium.

60. (Previously Presented) An extract according to claim 59, wherein progesterone receptor assay comprises 10% charcoal-stripped fetal calf serum, 2mM L-glutamine, 0.1mM non essential amino acids and 1mM sodium pyruvate, and wherein the extract is capable of eliciting the 50-fold to 350-fold increase in progesterone reporter gene activity after exposure for 42-48 hours at 37°C in a 5% carbon dioxide incubator.

61. (Previously Presented) An extract according to claim 54, comprising 3-butyl-4,5-dihydrophthalide and 3-butyl-phthalide.

62. (Previously Presented) An extract according to claim 61, wherein the 3-butyl-4,5-dihydrophthalide is present in the extract in an amount of about 95wt% and the 3-butyl-phthalide is present in the extract in an amount of about 2wt%.

63. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the extract of claim 54, in a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

64. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 63, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is capable of being administered orally or subcutaneously.

65. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 63, wherein the therapeutically effective amount is within the range 31.25mg to 500mg per 5000ml of total blood volume.

66-84. Canceled

85. (Previously Presented) An extract of Rhizoma Chuanxiong, characterized in that the extract has a progestogenic activity to progesterone, in a range selected from the group consisting of: 23.39% to 79.86%; 23.39% to 48.17%; and 48.17% to 79.86%, and mixtures thereof.

86-88 Canceled